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January 12, 2012 Amended Minutes for Special Called Meeting December 29, 2011 210:00 AM

At the request of Magistrate Vaughn, at the January 12, 2012 meeting, wanted the minutes for December 29, 2011 amended to have more detail about the discussion held at this meeting. (See attached copy from the Wayne County Outlook)

At the request of Magistrate Neal, at the January 12, 2012 meeting, wanted statement that he read during meeting for December 29, 2011 attached to minutes. (See attached copy)

An increase in pay was approved for the County Treasurer at the December 29, 2011 meeting, this increase was based on the County Treasurer having 28 years experience and being the lowest paid treasurer in this area.

Judge Executive, Greg Rankin

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Fiscal Court approves agreement with city to take over ASPIRE Center

By: Melodie Phelps, News Editor CNHI

1-4-12 — The ASPIRE Center will re-open this week under the joint management of city and county government. Wayne County Fiscal Court, by a 3-2 vote, approved the second reading of the ordinance establishing an agreement with the city, as the two entities prepared to take over the community center.

The ordinance had already been approved by the Monticello City Council and the fiscal court held a special meeting on Thursday, December 29 to take action regarding the proposal.

After County Judge-Executive Greg Rankin read the ordinance, there was a lengthy discussion regarding several issues.

All four magistrates agreed that city-county management of the ASPIRE Center is a positive step, and all agree that the facility needs to stay open. But there were questions about several issues, including budget as well as the day-to-day management of the facility.

Before the discussion began, Rankin explained that the ASPIRE Center has been managed by the EZ Community for the past 10 years, but that group notified city and county leaders earlier this month that funding was no longer available to keep the doors open. Rankin said he was officially notified of the board's vote to transfer the property two days before the December fiscal court meeting.

The city and county are contributing about \$35,000 annually into the center for its swimming program. Money generated by fees and donations total about \$29,000 a year, according to the budget. That would leave about a \$40,000 to \$45,000 budget shortfall, which the city and county would be responsible for.

Rankin noted that there will be some savings realized because of city and county government's operation of the facility, like property insurance. And there is the possibility of a group that would contribute toward the cost of utilities for use of the facility.

District Three Magistrate Dale Vaughn pointed out during the meeting that without the city and county's involvement the past several years there would have been no youth activities at the ASPIRE Center. He noted that he would like to see the center expand what it offers and be able to serve teenagers who have little to no available activities to get involved in.

Vaughn said his concerns included the short-term notice that the magistrates were given. Rankin stated that there had been discussion by the EZ Community board but that nothing was official until they took action on December 6.

Vaughn said another concern he has is with the fact the ordinance sets up a twomember committee, including only Rankin and Mayor Jeffrey Edwards, to operate the facility. He said he would like to see a complete board in place for long-range operation

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of the facility.

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Rankin noted that the ordinance allows for a board to be created at a later date, but told magistrates that during the transition phase it would be best to allow him and the mayor to take care of day-to- day operations, since sometimes decisions will need to be made quickly.

"Down the road I think a board is good," said Rankin. "It's good for long range planning."

District Four Magistrate Troy Neal voiced his support of the center, noting that it is vital part of the community. But he was also concerned with the two-member committee in charge of operating the facility. He asked that the ordinance be changed to include a seven-member board that would include Rankin and Edwards as well as other appointees.

Rankin said that since this ordinance had already been approved by the city, any changes that were made would have to go back to the city, which would delay the ASPIRE Center re-opening in January. He gave his word to magistrates that the long-term goal is to appoint a board.

District Two Magistrate Jeffrey Dishman said he had received numerous calls from people in the community who want to see the center remain open. He stated that he would like to have had more notice on the issue and the opportunity to meet with city council to discuss it.

Dishman made the motion to approve the second reading of the ordinance. District One Magistrate Ronnie Turner voiced his support for the ASPIRE Center and seconded the motion. Turner said he took Rankin's word that a board would be set up later.

Dishman and Turner voted in favor of the ordinance, while Vaughn and Neal were opposed. Rankin broke the tie. The ASPIRE Center will be transferred into the city's name and employees at the facility will be included through the city's payroll.

All costs will be shared between the two government entities.

In other action during the meeting, the court approved the second reading of an ordinance establishing a joint city-county events committee. Rankin noted this committee would be in charge of events like SpringFest. The city and the county also hope to launch a summer concert series in downtown, which would also fall under the jurisdiction of the committee.

The committee cannot incur any debt and can only operate from funds raised through donations and events.

The court discussed several different options for a increasing the salary of the county treasurer and agreed to give her a \$3,000 annual raise.

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Courty Clerk Dec 19-2012 Meeting amendments

It is my firm belief that no Fiscal Court member wants to see The Aspire Center closed. It is a vital part of our community. However, I believe that the Aspire Center should reopen under this inter local agreement with changes to section 2 of the Aspire Center Administrative and Oversight Committee. I believe that the first pargraph in section 2, should read the same as Section 2 Paragraph 1, in the local events Administrative and over sight Committee. Whereas in Section II, Composition and Powers of a Administrative Entity it states.

This Administrative & Oversight Committee shall consist of the Wayne County Judge Executive and the City of Monticello Mayor or their appointees. The Mayor shall appoint two Committee Members, subject to approval by the City Council, and the Judge Executive shall appoint two Committee Members, subject to approval by the Wayne County Fiscal Court. The Committee shall appoint a seventh Member.

Magistrate Dist. 4

Troy G. Neal

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